

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 10, 19 and 28 are amended. Claims 2 and 4-9 are canceled. Claims 4-16, 20, 24 and 26 are currently withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claim 1 has been amended to add more particular description. Support can be found in Claims 2, 5, 7 and 9 as well as in paragraphs 50 and 51. The status of Claim 17 has been corrected. Claim 19 is amended to correct its dependency to Claim 1. Claim 28 has been amended to correct a misspelling. Additionally, Claims 3, 10 and 28 have been amended to correct dependencies. No new matter is added by these amendments. Thus, Claims 1, 3, 17, 19, 21-23, 25, 27 and 28 are presently under examination.

Withdrawal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) Based on WEBER

Applicant acknowledges with thanks the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 17-19, 21-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) based on Weber (WO 2003/026532) (“WEBER”).

Withdrawal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on WEBER in View of HUNTER

Applicant acknowledges with thanks the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on WEBER in view of Hunter et al. (U.S. Application Publication No. US 2005/0149175) (“HUNTER”).

Objections to Claims

Claim 17 is objected to as not being correctly labeled. An amendment has now been made to indicate that this claim is currently pending and not withdrawn and this objection is now overcome.

Claims 19, 21 and 22 are objected to as depending from cancelled Claim 18. This objection has been overcome by an amendment to Claim 19 to change the dependency to Claim 1.

Serial No.: 10/777,802
Group Art Unit 1618
Examiner Hasan S. Ahmed

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on WEBER

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 17, 19, 21-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on WEBER as a single reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Moreover, the rejection is believed to be moot in view of the amendment to Claim 1.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on WEBER in View of WEBER II

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on WEBER in view of Weber et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,743,463 ("WEBER II"). This rejection is respectfully traversed in part for the reasons described above for WEBER. Moreover, the rejection is believed to be moot in view of the amendment to Claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of Claims 1, 3, 17, 19, 21-23, 25, 27 and 28 and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes there are still unresolved issues, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 22, 2009